

Amendments to the Claims

Please make the following amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processor comprising:

a computer; and

an external storage device detachably connected via a connector provided for the

computer[[;]], the computer comprising[[;]]

acceptance means for accepting an ejection request to the external

storage device; and

encryption means for encrypting a predetermined data file stored in

the external storage device if in response to the ejection

request ~~has been~~ being accepted by the acceptance means and

in response to an encryption passphrase being stored on the

computer, the passphrase having been selected by a user of

the computer and saved prior to the ejection request, the

predetermined data file being predetermined by the user for

encryption.

2. (Currently Amended) The information processor according to claim 1, ~~further comprising~~

~~device stopping means for stopping access to the external storage device for which~~

~~encryption of the predetermined data file by the encryption means has been completed~~

wherein the predetermined file is automatically decrypted in response to subsequent

mounting of the external storage device by a computer comprising the stored passphrase and automatic encryption in response to an ejection request related to the subsequent mounting.

3. (Currently Amended) The information processor according to claim 1, further comprising passphrase managing means for accepting and managing input of a passphrase from a user, the passphrase used for encryption by the encryption means.
4. (Original) The information processor according to claim 1, wherein the encryption means is provided with multiple encryption engines used for encryption of the predetermined data file and dynamically changes the encryption engines to use them.
5. (Currently Amended) The information processor according to claim 1, wherein the connector is one of a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) connector and a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connector.
6. (Currently Amended) The information processor according to claim 1, ~~wherein the connector is a USB connector~~ wherein the encryption means further comprises storing hint information with the predetermined file, the hint information provided by the user when the passphrase is stored to provide a hint to the user as an aid in remembering the passphrase.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processor comprising:
- a computer; and
 - an external storage device detachably connected via a connector provided for the computer[[;]], the computer comprising:
 - event detection means for detecting a mounting event issued when the external storage device is connected to the connector;
 - encrypted file detection means for checking whether or not an encrypted data file is stored in the external storage device which has been detected to be mounted by the event detection means; and
 - decryption means for decrypting the encrypted data file detected by the encrypted file detection means using a preset passphrase, the passphrase having been selected by a user of the computer and saved on the computer prior to the mounting event.
8. (Original) The information processor according to claim 7, wherein the decryption means requires input of a passphrase when the encrypted data file cannot be decrypted with the preset passphrase.

9. (Currently Amended) The information processor according to claim 7, wherein the connector is one of a Personal Computer Memory Card International Association (PCMCIA) connector and a Universal Serial Bus (USB) connector.
10. (Currently Amended) The information processor according to claim 7, ~~wherein the connector is a USB connector~~ wherein the decryption means does not decrypt the data file in response to one of the decryption means failing to find a stored preset passphrase, the decryption means determining that a stored preset passphrase differs from a passphrase used to encrypt the data, and the decryption means determining that a passphrase entered by a user in response to a prompt differing from the passphrase used to encrypt the data file, the prompt provided to the user after the decryption means fails to find a stored preset passphrase or finding that a stored preset passphrase differs from the passphrase used to encrypt the data file.
11. (Currently Amended) An encryption processing system for providing encryption processing for a data file stored in an external storage device connected to a computer[[;]], the encryption processing system comprising:
- acceptance means for accepting an ejection request to the external storage device connected to the computer in accordance with specifications specifying that software control should be performed, including processing to stop access to the device, when ejection is performed; and

encryption means for encrypting a predetermined data file stored in the external storage device ~~if in response to the ejection request has been~~ being accepted by the acceptance means and in response to an encryption passphrase being stored on the computer, the passphrase having been selected by a user of the computer and saved prior to the ejection request, the predetermined data file being predetermined by the user for encryption.

12. (Currently Amended) The encryption processing system according to claim 11, further comprising decryption means for detecting that the external storage device is connected to the computer and decrypting the encrypted data file stored in the external storage device, wherein decrypting the encrypted data file occurs in response to the decryption means determining that the encrypted data file was encrypted using the passphrase.
13. (Original) The encryption processing system according to claim 12, further comprising passphrase managing means for managing a passphrase used for encryption by the encryption means and decryption by the decryption means.
14. (Currently Amended) The encryption processing system according to claim ~~14~~ 11, wherein said system is installed in a retail environment.
15. (Original) The encryption processing system according to claim 11, wherein said system is networked within a computer network.